

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 AGR-10 EB-07 /060 W

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R 302015Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 137

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 1610

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PGOV, SWEL, HA

SUBJECT: DUVALIER VISITS NORTHWEST DROUGHT VICTIMS

1. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL NOUVEAU MONDE REPORTED JUNE 28 THAT PRESIDENT DUVALIER, AT THE WHEEL OF HIS OWN LAND-ROVER, DROVE OVER 600 KM. BETWEEN 0300 AND 1830 HOURS THE PREVIOUS DAY TO INSPECT THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE DROUGHT-STRICKEN NORTHWEST. HIS STOPS INCLUDED SITES AT GONAIVES, ANSE ROUGE, JEAN-RABEL, PORT-DE-PAIX, AND A NUMBER OF SUBJ-REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION SITES IN BETWEEN THESE TOWNS. NOUVEAU MONDE STATED THAT WEEKLY FOOD DISTRIBUTION WAS NOW REACHING 95,000 PERSONS.

2. DUVALIER WAS ACCOMPANIED ON WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN A WHIRLWIND, BONESHAKING, AND EXHAUSTING 15 1/2 HOUR RIDE BY AGING PRESIDENTIAL GUARD COMMANDER GEN. GRACIA JACQUES; INFORMATION AND COORDINATION SECRETARY PIERRE GOUSSE; AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT UNDERSECRETARY REMILLOT LEVEILLE; PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION UNDERSECRETARY DR. ROBERT GERMAIN; COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY UNDERSECRETARY HENRI BAYARD; HAITIAN RED CROSS PRESIDENT DR. VICTOR LAROCHE; AND VARIOUS PRESIDENTIAL GUARD OFFICERS.

3. COMMENT: WE HAD PASSED ON TO BY M#LAROCHE WITH OUR OWN STRONG ENDORSEMENT, A SUGGESTION BY TIME CORRESPONDENT JACK WHITE (ATLANTA OFFICE) THAT DUVALIER COULD GREATLY BOLSTER HIS INTERNATIONAL AS WELL AS HIS DOMESTIC CREDIBILITY CONCERNING GOH
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DROUGHT RELIEF EFFORTS BY PERSONALLY INSPECTING THE NORTHWEST.

WHILE DETAILS OF DUVALIER'S SOJOURN ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE, IT IS FAIR TO ASSUME THAT HIS PRESENCE MUST HAVE HAD SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT, PARTICULARLY AT THE MORE ISOLATED POINTS OF CALL.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PASS FOREGOING TO CORRESPONDENT WHITE, WHOSE DROUGHT COVERAGE PROBABLY WILL APPEAR IN TIME'S NEXT EDITION.
ISHAM

NOTE BY OCT: #AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

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